

Atalaya hemiglauca

Common name:

Whitewood, Cattle bush,

Palatability to Livestock:

High at all stages.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk toxicity.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Varying degrees of toxicity to sheep, cattle and especially horses.

Poisonous Principle:

Unknown.

Effects:

Signs and Symptoms;

. Vague signs of distress, and staggers, followed by fairly rapid death.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Either no effects – or death.
- . Evidence shows that the ingestion of young suckers can cause “staggers” in cattle.
- . Fruits are the most toxic part.
- . Toxic to horses.
- . Muscle weakness, colic and death in horses, oedematous swelling of the head in some animals. See McKenzie.

Treatment;

Be aware of possible stock problems.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Control achieved by grazing management.

Comments:

. A small to medium sized tree, suckering freely. Pale grey bark, and pale close-grained wood, however, it is not durable, and is prone to borer attack.

- . The leaves are alternate, of varying shape, dull grey, or bluish green.
- . Flowers are cream-green, in large panicles, either in the leaf axils or at the end of the branches, in spring to summer.
- . The seeds are yellow-green, with a wing at one end.
- . New growth is slightly hairy.
- . Widespread in inland areas, in a range of habitats and soil types; very hardy and drought resistant, providing good shade and fodder in drought.
- . Found in Western Australia, Queensland, Northern Territory, and western NSW.
- . Some clumps sucker freely. The crown is fairly dense, and will tolerate pruning, making good regrowth if lopped for drought feed.
- . Fruits can be toxic to horses, but dried leaf extract had no ill effect.



Picture; *Atalaya hemiglauca*

Further Reading;

- . Cunningham, Mulham, Milthorpe and Leigh, Plants of Western NSW. 1999.
- . Elliot and Jones. Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants. 1982.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . McBarron. Medical and Veterinary Aspects of Australian Plant Poisons in NSW. 1976.
- . McKenzie. Veterinary Clinical Toxicology. 2000.